

**FORMAL COMMUNICATION**

**TO:           WIB Directors  
              Program Directors**

**FROM:       William R. Miller, Director  
              Career Services**

**DATE:       December 16, 2005**

**Workforce Investment Act – Technical Assistance Bulletin  
WIA – TAB 2005-008**

**Youth as Displaced Homemakers**

Question:    May a youth applying for services under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) be enrolled as a “displaced homemaker” under the WIA Dislocated Worker program?

Response:    The Department of Workforce Development’s (DWD) response is “usually no.”

Clarification concerning the response is provided.

**Clarification:**

A Displaced Homemaker is:

“An individual who has been providing unpaid services to family members in the home and who –

- (A) Has been dependent on the income of another family member but is no longer supported by that income; and
- (B) Is unemployed or underemployed and is experiencing difficulty in obtaining or upgrading employment.”

The key phrase is “providing unpaid services to family members.” As is the case of many families, individuals within the family unit may provide unpaid services or chores/tasks within the family. Such chores or tasks do not meet the intent of the legislation. However, the intent of the legislation would be met when the youth undertakes the **role** of the husband, wife, parent, or guardian by providing the services of that individual, and the rest of the definition is met. Please see the scenario.

### Scenario

The family unit consists of a husband, wife, and dependent children. The wife dies and so can no longer fulfill her responsibilities to the dependent children; therefore, the youth provides the services previously done by the mother. The husband is subsequently laid off from his job. The husband may be enrolled as a dislocated worker and the youth may be enrolled as a displaced homemaker.

DWD believes instances where a youth can be enrolled as a displaced homemaker are very limited. Remember, it is our interpretation that youth being enrolled as a displaced homemaker may occur only when the youth undertakes the role of the parent. Prior approval from the Center of Excellence must be obtained prior to enrolling a youth as a displaced homemaker. Please send requests to Tony Collier, Director, Center of Excellence. Justification for the enrollment must be provided in the case file. Questions concerning this TAB may be directed to Tony at 317/232-7595 or by email at [tcollier@dwd.in.gov](mailto:tcollier@dwd.in.gov).

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